To The Port Sanitary Authority.

Sandwich. K

Annual Reports for year 1902.

7th Feb 1903

Gent^n

During the year 1902 one hundred and eighty three vessels entered the Haven besides those occasionally employed by Messrs. Pearson Contractors to the Admiralty Harbour Works Dover which pass between Dover and their works at Stonar. Of the 183 vessels mentioned above 155 were local traders plying chiefly between Sandwich & London with general cargoes and ~~to the North~~ for Coal. Twenty eight vessels arrived from Foreign Ports. 24 from Cherbourg with Stone. ~~two from Newport with Stone.~~ one from Renengen with Stone. one from Hamburg with Cake. All those arriving from foreign ports were carefully inspected and found in satisfactory condition, with the exception of one from Cherbourg in which The Closet was found to be in bad condition & ordered to be repaired and cleaned. The weekly notification to the Central Sanitary Authority in London giving notice concerning presence of any Infectious Disease in this Port has been adopted and carried out for the first time during the past Year & as 1902 stands out as having had a rather high Zymotic rate in this District it may perhaps have proved useful.

I remain Sir
Your Obedient Servt
H. Hampson
P. M. O.

C
24 FEB. 1903
L.G.B.

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Urban Sanitary Authority, Sandwich.

Annual Report year 1902.

7th February 1903.

Gentlemen.

I herewith present the Annual Report for the year 1902 for the Urban Sanitary District of Sandwich which according to the recent Census is contained in an area of 756 acres and has a population of 3170 persons distributed as follows in four Parishes St Peters 1088 St Mary 1092 St Clements 956 St Barts 34

The Registrar Reports the deaths of 46 persons during the year. one being an accidental death which leaves a total of 45 due to disease — details of these deaths are given on table IV accompanying this Report- The actual death rate per thousand from disease is practically 14. 2 which I consider quite Satisfactory from a public health point of view and as will be seen is rather below the average taken on the last five years.

The deaths were distributed in the Parishes as follow St Mary 17. St Clement 14. St Peters 13. St Barts 2 as regards time the most notable point was that 36 deaths occurred in the first six months of the year - the mortality in the last months being exceptionally low.

Number of deaths during past five years

1898	45
1899	52
1900	45
1901.	47
1902.	46

24 FEB. 1903
L.G.B.

The number of births during the year was 76 (39 m 37 f) eight below the number of last year & but slightly under that of previous years as following table shows.

Births during the past five years	
1898.	77.
1899.	77.
1900.	77.
1901.	84.
1902.	76.

The birthrate per thousand for 1902 is 23.9.

The following is a Summery of the Deaths as shown by Registra

Measles	1
Scarlet-Fever.	1
Whooping cough	1
Diphtheria	5
Croup	1
Epidemic Influenza	2
Enteritis	3
Phthisis	6
Tubercular Disease	1
Cancer	2
Bronchitis	3
Pleurisy	1
Alcoholism	2
Premature Birth	3
Heart-Disease	3
Accident	1
Senile Degen^{n}	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2
Peritonitis	2
	46

The accidental death was that of a child by drowning
nine deaths occurred in Infants twelve months or under
2 due to Gastritis 1 Malnutrition 1 Influenza 3 Prematurity
1 Whooping Cough 1 Tabes - this number is a decided
improvement on last year & several other preceding years
Five deaths were certified as in those 80 and over
- the oldest being a female age 88.

In common with other Authorities during
the prevalence of Small pox - Chicken pox was temporarily
made a notifiable Disease with good effect and I do
~~not think~~ that any doubtful case escaped the necessary
close attention. 34 - cases were notified of Zymotic
disease - Diphtheria - 24 - Scarlet Fever 7 - Erysipelas 5
(and in addition 16 of Chicken Pox).
Five cases of Diphtheria and one of Scarlet Fever
proved fatal - all but one being under five years of
age. The first case of Diphtheria occurred in
a child age 2½ years whose family had within a
fortnight arrived from an adjoining Town
apparently well, entering a house from which a
healthy family had just departed - the next appeared
in an adjoining house to a family which suffered from
Diphtheria two years before. other probable causes on
inspection & enquiry were believed to be due to the
proximity of a foul ditch used for sewage, three
cases due to defective drains and leaky closets
another was attributed by the sufferer to bathing
near a sewage outfall in the River without at first
being aware of it. these were special causes
but common to several were the presence of small
back yards, generally unclean, unpaved or badly

paved. Sunless and damp. often rendered more
damp by the presence of leaky water taps beneath
which no drain existed - Such conditions if they
do not generate can certainly propagate such diseases
when once introduced by birds or domestic animals
| or airborn &c. | Influenza as usual was
somewhat prevalent in the first quarter of the year
but never to an epidemic extent and on the whole in
an attenuated form - two deaths were however
attributed to it. In April Measles which had
been present in the Rural Districts developed
itself in epidemic form and the schools were at
once closed for one month - Chicken pox at
this time was rather common - while alluding
to the presence of these diseases I should also note
the fact that no case of Typhoid Fever
occurred within this Boro during the year 1902
and I do so with pleasure as it is only rarely
that I have been able to make such a
gratifying statement - another fortunate
circumstance was the freedom of the Town from
Small Pox. In January I received a letter from
Canterbury saying a man was in Hospital
suffering from that Disease who two nights
previously had slept in a lodging house in this Town
I immediately visited this house had the room
closed and carefully disinfected - vaccinated the
Landlady and her family keeping them under
observation until satisfied that no extension would occ
the man in Hospital died. also a second man who
was his companion while in Sandwich

About the same time I also received notice from the Rural Sanitary Authorities informing me that a Woman had been removed to the Isolation Hospital suffering from Small Pox and it was believed that two of her children were to be sent to relatives in Sandwich; together with the Sanitary Inspector I visited the house, found the children had just arrived. as there were other children in the house and delay was dangerous: a Cart was immediately engaged - and the two children were at once turned to the Infected house which was placed in a state of quarantine.

We therefore probably had the germs of Small Pox in our midst on these two occasions and these facts becoming known assisted materially in increasing the number of persons voluntarily re-vaccinated.

In June a notification was also received from Hampshire informing us of the projected arrival in Sandwich of a person who had been visiting a Small pox patient there - the house hold where this woman was expected was visited and the responsibility incurred (if infection followed) pointed out, with the result that a telegram was sent forbidding the visit

In November it was necessary for the first time to take advantage of the proximity of the Isolation Hospital at Eastry. Diphtheria having occurred in a family - the mother also became afflicted and helpless - and as there were younger children in the house with no proper means of Isolation and no one to attend to them or nurse

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the Invalids the Rural Authority was communicated with and arrangements promptly made for their removal. In November I received notice thro' the Police that portions of Pork had been sent to London from Sandwich and reported as being unfit for food, together with the Inspector the remaining portions were traced and examined - samples being taken - The Central Sanitary Authority was communicated with but no further action was taken by them.
During the year one Cottage was certified as unfit for habitation and the ~~tenants ejected~~ it is now in a sanitary condition -
A child was also reported to be about the Public thoroughfares while in an infectious State from Scarlet Fever - on the House being visited and child examined it was found to be suffering from a Constitutional Skin affection only.
The Bakeries were regularly visited during the year and with one or two slight exceptions were all found in a satisfactory condition as also were the workrooms.
Dairies, Cowsheds & Slaughter Houses were also periodically inspected - In conclusion Gentlemen - altho we have fortunately escaped epidemics of serious nature during the year yet it is my duty as Medical Officer of Health to reiterate the necessity of keeping in mind the fact - that an improved, thorough and effective drainage system is urgently needed to place us in a position of comparative security, should such a danger actually arise -

and altho I am aware of the many difficulties (financial and otherwise which necessarily attend it – yet I trust the Authorities will look upon its advent as an absolute Hygienic necessity.

I remain Gentlemen

Your Obedient Sert.

T. Addison

M. O. H.